

Weekly Views

October 7, 2011

Commissioner Lemmon is proud to announce that Craig Hanks, Director of Mental Health for the Indiana Department of Correction, was awarded the 2011 Professional of the Year Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) at the NAMI State Conference.

Commissioner joined over 20 IDOC staff for the Wine at the Line footrace in beautiful Bargersville, IN. The weather was perfect, and race proceeds supported the Happy Hollow Children's Camp for physically and economically disadvantaged children. The DOC Race Team's next event will be the Moonlight 4-Miler on November 19

in downtown Indianapolis. For more information, contact Lisa Salinas at (317) 233-5541 or lsalinas@idoc.IN.gov. (see photo right)

"Honesty, Compassion, Responsibility, Tolerance and Respect" was the theme of a PLUS Graduation Ceremony held for 74 graduates at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Opening remarks were given by Superintendent Knight, followed by Keynote Speaker Dr. Stephen Hall. "I'm the 'bus driver' and have the weight of responsibility for the program on my shoulders. I hope that none of you return," stated Dr. Hall. The ceremony concluded with testimonials from graduates and distribution of Certificates of Completion. The program was coordinated by Case Manager Kumaran. (see photo of Dr. Hall below)



Members of the student chapter of the Indiana Criminal Justice Association from IVY Tech in Logansport, under the guidance of Krysten Hinkle, toured both the Indiana State Prison and the Westville Correctional Facility. They had the opportunity to compare and contrast the units, operations and programs of medium, maximum and long-term segregation and enjoy a luncheon provided by the WCC-Ivy Tech Culinary Arts vocational class.



A very sweet gesture in extremely good taste has been made to Carlisle elementary and junior high students, courtesy of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Fatherhood Program! Program supervisor Michele Lincoln and program coordinator Josh Collins delivered 40 dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts to the appreciative Sullivan County students. The project is part of the ongoing Fatherhood initiative for participants to give back to the community.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COL) held several events including a Staff Assembly. Several employees were awarded cash spot bonuses, and Correctional Officer Rodney Hall was named employee of the quarter. COL Case Manager Rom Moening also conducted a sexual assault response team (SART) training for staff team members along with the LaGrange and Noble County Sheriff's Departments.

Six offenders from the Indiana Women's Prison PLUS Unit successfully passed the Serve Safe test as part of the Healthy Living Component of the PLUS program.

This accomplishment will enable the women to gain employment in the food industry upon re-entry into our community. The Serve Test was paid for through generous donations of volunteers from various organizations.

Miami Correctional Facility's Employee Appreciation Committee held a nachos and chili hotdog sale, netting more than \$200 toward the Employee Appreciation activities fund.

Congratulations go to Pendleton Correctional Facility K-9 Handler Jeremiah Norris and Hanni, his explosives detection canine, for receiving certification by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). Certification was granted after Norris and Hanni successfully passed the National Odor Recognition Test. This testing procedure represents the proficiency standard established by the ATF as a benchmark for effective canine explosives detection. (See photo right)

The Indiana Women's Prison hosted the Kairos 12th Weekend from September 22, through 25, 2011 with 30 offenders attending. In addition, the "Stepping Stones Mennonite Choir" held a worship concert.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility helped on a Habitat for Humanity project in Anderson, IN. Four students and two staff members participated in the community service project. They helped with building and clean-up.

